

Top Orchid

Spring
2006



BOURNEMOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY

2005

- Sat. Sept 24 Autumn Show Beaufort Community Centre
- Fri 28 Oct * Chong-Yee Khoo “The World Orchid Congress”
- Fri 25 Nov * Michael Mcillmurray “Maxillarias”
- Sat 10 Dec * Christmas Dinner

2006

- Fri 27 Jan * Graham Smith “Mounted Orchid Culture”
- Sat 25 Feb Spring Show Beaufort Community Centre
- Fri 31 Mar * Plant Clinic & Brains Trust
- Fri 28 Apr * Roger Grier “Wild Orchids of the Countryside”
- Fri 26 May * AGM followed by Plant Auction
- Sun 4 June Coach Outing Burnham Nurseries, Devon
- Fri 16 June Janet & Ian Plested “Angraecoids of Mauritius”
- Sun 23 July * Garden Party Hosted by Nina Gregson; 2.30 p.m.
3 Ashley Park, Ashley Heath.
- Fri 18 Aug Sarah Rittershausen “Absolute Beginnings”
- Sat 23 Sep Autumn Show Beaufort Community Centre

* Members may sell plants only at these meetings

Front cover *Cattleya specioissima*

Editor's Page

I have just finished a marathon, no not the London Marathon, but something that feels almost as arduous. After several weeks, an estimated 100 hours and over 2000 pots I have at last completed repotting my orchids.

This is the most important time to get your plants sorted and ready for the growing season ahead. When you think about it, although orchids are slower growing than other plants they still have to get a lot done in a relatively short growing season. Therefore, we have to make sure they are in a good quality compost, that will ensure healthy roots and ultimately lots of healthy growth.

So as Graham Smith said in the March meeting, "repot, repot, repot!" The best advise anyone can give.

As this years late spring lingers on I am amazed how little rain we have had and with such a large collection, I require a lot of rainwater. I have six water butts located outside to collect rainwater and three large storage tanks inside the greenhouse and they are already getting very low on water. Usually this time of year we are overflowing with the stuff. Some areas of the country are on a hosepipe ban so our precious plants are already up against it. Mind you, if you own a massive swimming pool you are perfectly at liberty to fill it up with a few million gallons when ever you like. Although we are desperate for rain, none of us want it to be a soggy summer, so perhaps we have to organise better ways of collecting and storing it.

Please make a note of our coach outings on page 23 and book your seats. They are always a great day out and a good opportunity to visit an orchid nursery to stock up with those plants you just cannot live without. One of these trips will be to the forthcoming BOC Congress to be held at the Winter Gardens, Weston-Super-Mare, September 30th and October 1st. This will be the biggest orchid event of the year, as the Newbury Orchid Show is no more, so speak to our Secretary, Ken Griffiths for information.

Also the Summer Orchid Fayre will be at the Dinton Pastures Country Park, an area of lakes, meadows and mature woodland to be explored. This event should be worth a visit and a list of exhibitors will be available in July. Ask Ken for information.

You Sexy Thing You!

When I started growing orchids, some 35 years ago, they were still regarded as the ultimate exotic, which needed expert culture and a large wallet to succeed; definitely not for the faint hearted. People have certainly had a fascination with these plants, the name Orchid conjures up words such as, rare, primeval, sinister, exotic, expensive, difficult and many more, However, over the years I have witnessed a gradual but steady acceptance of these incredible plants into peoples homes.

The development of in vitro plant propagation and improved methods of raising plants has enabled the orchid to find its way into garden centres, DIY stores and supermarkets at prices to compete with other exotic plants. The orchid has now become a "Houseplant"; so much so that in 2005 it officially became the nations most popular houseplant.

This success is down to many factors, not least the hard work put in by orchid societies throughout the country; their determination to "spread the word" and encourage more people to grow them has resulted in record memberships. Bournemouth is no exception in this crusade and we have, without doubt, reached a level of excellence never before witnessed in the Society's history. We resolved, many years ago, to raise the bar and put on exhibits and shows of the highest calibre. Our success at European and World Orchid Congresses has been second to none, but to me the most important orchid events are the Spring and Autumn Shows. They have been so successful the exhibition hall at the Beaufort Community Centre is often bursting with visitors, eager to see and purchase their first orchid. Others come clasping their own plants, making a bee line for the increasingly popular Potting and Demonstration table, in the hope their precious cargo will be given a new lease of life.

The Orchid's success has been triumphant, they can now be seen everywhere, from the must have plant for house make-over programmes to the most appropriate gift on Mother's Day. The national press love a good "Orchid Story"

What is it that attracts people to their charms? There is one word commonly used these days and that is, sexy - yes, orchids are most definitely **SEXY!**

Allan Burdiss

Mounted Orchid Culture

Jan. 27

Graham Smith
Life Vice-President

“**W**hy bother with mounted culture”? - This was the question Graham asked at the start of his talk and the following was some of the reasons the member’s gave:

“Better culture”

“Some orchids do not like pots”

“No bench space left.”

Graham added, we spend a lot of money on heating , so why not use all the available space and get more plants in the greenhouse.

Some orchids are not suitable for pot culture such as *Dendrobium striolatum* and many *Oncidiums* as they need to hang down.

Most orchids are epiphytic which are ideally suited to growing mounted, others are lithophytic. Graham mentioned how he always observed *Encyclia cochleata* growing on scree slopes and rocks but never on trees.

What do you mount orchids on?

The material should be long lasting.

Cork bark - From a species of Oak, very durable, and takes a long time to decay. It has a rough surface ideal for orchid roots. It is readily available.

Pine - from mature trees such as Corsican (a good material to use), Maritime, Douglas Fir and Wellingtonia (ideal for orchids with fine roots). Graham mentioned how you could punch the trunk of a Wellingtonia and it would not hurtmuch!

For wood based mounts allow the wood to season from six to 12 months to stop it rotting too quickly. Round off the top of the mount and smooth over with sand paper. This will help water to run off.

English Oak - has a good surface suitable for many orchids but does not last as long as pine bark.

Gorse - A very hard wood, the bark is thin but does not flake off. It has fissures, which roots love and is water retentive.

Tree Fern - Two forms

1. Soft spongy type, which thin rooted orchids like.
2. Hard variety, which Graham prefers, has texture similar to Osmunda fibre (Osmunda fibre is the dried root of the Royal Fern, *Osmunda regalis* and was the main potting material for orchids in the early days, but is now expensive to buy and not readily available).

Silver Birch - The old bark is very good but rots quickly.

Not all tree bark is suitable, as some have toxins which are harmful to orchids. Graham suggested trying unknown material with "spare" orchids you may have.

Graham demonstrated how he uses old metal wire coat hangers to make hooks to suspend the orchid mounts. He drills two holes near the top of the piece of bark or wood; the first is drilled right through and the second is partially drilled just below the first. He then takes a length of wire cut from the hanger and pushes it through from the front and bends this over and hammers it into the "blind" hole. The longer front piece is bent up and a loop is made to hang the wood from.

The type of orchid determines the nature of bark to use, has the plant got large or very fine roots? Is it a large variety? and fast growing?

If you wish to attach a previously mounted orchid then it is easier to attach the plant with its mount onto the new piece, this will cause less disturbance to the root system.

Use green plastic wire to attach larger plants and for smaller plants Graham recommended using old tights, cut into narrow strips, which is much softer and less likely to damage plants. (Graham seems to be an expert on old tights!)

The use of dried sphagnum or tree moss as a pad placed under newly mounted orchids was recommended to encourage root formation.

After care

Watering - Mounted orchids will dry out much quicker and will require frequent spraying or watering.

Humidity - High humidity is required, damp down often.

Feeding - The same as pot culture, apply with sprayer or dunk in container of liquid feed.

The advantages with mounted plants is they can be moved around the greenhouse more easily than those grown in pots, to find the perfect growing location.

The meeting ended with several questions from members and Colin Carter gave the vote of thanks.

It's amazing how interesting a load of old wood can be!



Encyclia mariae mounted on cork

Allan Burdis



Encyclia citrina mounted on cork



Masdevallia caesia is an example of an orchid best suited to being mounted.



Dendrobium lindleyi mounted on tree fern slab

Chairman's Report

Derek Copley

Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not so nice. Genuine compliments are always welcomed, in whatever form they come. In the last year, two people in the society have given me plants *Odont. nobile* (formerly *Odont. pescatorei*) and *Odont. crispum*, to add to my collection of species, knowing that they grow well in my conditions.

My most recent compliment was the request that I grow something for someone else, and then when it is thriving, I hand it back. The request came from none other than Allan Burdis from what we, on the committee, affectionately call 'the big house'. The plant? Not an orchid, but a bromeliad, a large form of Spanish Moss. Over the years, Allan had noted that I grow buckets of the ordinary Spanish Moss, and often stuff it into Sainsbury's bags to give away. Nancey, my wife, uses it as lining material for her superb hanging baskets. I may not be able to grow orchids too well, but I can grow bromeliads! Some have become just too large to cope with, and I recently put a huge multi-headed one in the raffle.

You might want to try one or two bromeliads, though probably they thrive better in a greenhouse than in a home. Not so easy to get high humidity and daily spraying can turn the wallpaper green! They tend to like the same conditions as orchids and give the greenhouse a tropical look, though some of mine do get in my hair as I am making my way through the dense hanging masses. I wear a hat when spraying them daily, as it saves a wet head. Ask Allan if you are not sure what kind to get.

The point I am making (yes it has taken a while to get there!) is that plants need different conditions. If it is not thriving, then move it to another position, or change the type of potting medium or the temperature. Maybe you could ask for advice by bringing the plant to a meeting. It does not have to be a Brains Trust or plant clinic at the Show. But there are times when a plant simply will not do well, whatever we try. But we may know someone who 'does' that family of orchids really well. There is no shame in giving (or even selling) a plant to someone else, who can give it 'a good home'

Once, I purchased a large mounted orchid and after several years it was going nowhere. So I brought it to a Brains Trust to get the panel of experts to advise me. Naturally I was growing it with the roots at the bottom. 'Wrong!' said the panel. 'Pardon me, I thought, for growing a plant the right way up!' You hang it upside down with the roots at the top. Wow! So I did. I sprayed it every day. You know what? It did not improve. So I told George Lucas, who grows hotter than I do with higher humidity. 'give it 'ere' he said 'I'll get it flowering' A year later it flowered. George will keep it, since my conditions will never suit it.

Orchids can be more tolerant than we think, and will often adapt to conditions, which officially are not ideal. Some 'intermediate' plants will grow 'cool' and some 'warm' ones will survive at only 13 C, if we get the watering regime right. But we may fail. It's no shame if we cannot grow something well. Our own conditions will not suit every plant we buy, and sometimes we have to admit that we got it wrong. So, if all else fails, give it away. After all it's only money.

Derek Copley



**Bromeliads make good companion plants for orchids, such as this
*Tillandsia atroviridipetala***

Spring Show 2006

1 The Madge Mules Cup for the exhibitor gaining most points

Winner - Mr Colin Carter (19 points)
2nd - Mr Geoff Hands (13 points)
3rd - Mrs Christine Carter (12 points)

2 The Presidents Shield for the best Plant in Show

Winner - Mr Nick Crabb
Plant - *Cymbidium hookerianum*

3 The Edith Edge Cup for the best Odontoglossum

Winner - Dr D Copley
Plant - *Odontoglossum pescatorei*

4 The Purbeck Cup for the Winner of Class 13

Not awarded

5 The Species Cup for the best Species in show

Winner - Mr Nick Crabb
Plant - *Cymbidium hookerianum*

6 The Phalaenopsis Cup for the best Phalaenopsis in show

Winner - Mrs Christine Carter
Plant - *Phalaenopsis aphrodite*

7 The Johnnie Dyball award for the best orchid grown on mounted material

Winner - Mr Colin Carter
Plant - *Phalaenopsis mannii*

The Hampshire Cup awarded for the best Dendrobium

Winner – Mrs Christine Carter
Plant - *Dendrobium aberrans*

The Millennium Bowl awarded to the plant best Cattleya/Laelia

Winner – Mr John James
Plant - *Cattleya Angel heart*

The Anniversary Cup awarded to the best Cymbidium

Winner – Mr N Crabb
Plant - *Cymbidium hookerianum*

The Groves Bowl awarded to the best Slipper in Show

Winner - Mr Colin Carter
Plant - *Paphiopedilum delenatii var alba*

The Congress Cup awarded to the best group of three in Show

Winner – Mr Colin Carter
Plant - *Paphiopedilum delenatii var alba*
Cypripedium segawai
Paphiopedilum Leanum

The Simply Control Shield awarded for the best Hybrid in Show

Winner – Mr Colin Carter
Plant - *Paphiopedilum fanaticum*

14 The Frances Simmons Memorial Cup awarded for best Pleurothallid in Show

Winner- Mr Alan Sapsard
Plant - *Masdevallia sp.*

The Delia Hudson Memorial Cup awarded for the best *Coelogyne* in show

Winner- Mr Geoff Hands

Plant - *Coelogyne cristata*

16 The Beaufort Cup awarded to the best floral arrangement in class 16

Winner - Dr Nina Gregson

Exhibit - Class 'Reflections'

17 Floral Award Best in Class 17 (Open Class)

Winner - Ms Sarah Rickett

Exhibit - Class 'Eastern Delight'

Cultural Awards awarded for cultural excellence

1 Mr Colin Carter

Plant - *Paphiopedilum concolor*

2 Mr Nick Crabb

Plant- *Cymbidium hookerianum*

3 Mrs Christine Carter

Plant – *Phalaenopsis aphrodite*

4. Mrs Margaret Johnson

Plant- *Phragmipedium sedenii*

5 Mr Geoff Hands

Plant- *Coelogyne cristata*

6 Mr John James

Plant- *Cattleya* Angel Heart

Mr Michael Powell

Plant- *Cyclopogon lindleyana*

THE CLASSES

Class 1 One Cymbidium Species\ Hybrid, standard or miniature (4 entries)

1st Nick Crabb

Cymbidium hookerianum

2nd Nina Gregson

Cymbidium insigne

3rd Anna Hodgkins

Cymbidium Hybrid

Class 2 One Paphiopedilum\Phragmipedium Hybrid (4 entries)

1st Colin Carter

Paph fanaticum

2nd Alan Sapsard

Phrag. Dick Clements

3rd Nuala Sterling

Paph. Leeatum

Class 3 One Paphiopedilum\Phragmipedium Species (2 entries)

1st Colin Carter

Paph .exul

2nd Geoff Hands

Paph. Fowlei

Class 4 One Oncidiinae Species or Hybrid (4 entries)

1st John James

Oncidium Goldianum

2nd Derek Copley

Odontoglossum violetavon Holtum

3rd Colin Carter

Ada aurantiaca

Class 5 One Dendrobium Species or Hybrid (3 entries)

1st Christine Carter

Dendrobium aberrans

2nd Colin Carter

Dendrobium kingianum x Jombok

3rd Alan Sapsard

Dendrobium nobile

Class 6 One Cattleya/Laelia Species or Hybrid (2 entries)

1st John James

Cattleya Angel Heart

2nd Geoff Hands

Iwanagera Chief Snowflake

Class 7 One Phalaenopsis Species or Hybrid (4 entries)

1st Christine Carter

Phalaenopsis aphrodite

2nd Geoff Hands

Phalaenopsis Brother Love song

3rd Colin Carter

Phalaenopsis manni

Class 8 Any Other Hybrid (1 entry)

1st Geoff Hands

Vanda Donna Roma Sanchez x *coerulea*

Class 9 Any Other Species (4 entries)

1st Colin Carter

Epidendrum capricornu

2nd Derek Copley

Coelogyne cristata

3rd Alan Sapsard

Masdevallia sp

Class 10 Three Species Orchids (4 entries)

1st Colin Carter

Stenorrhynchos speciosus

Paphiopedilum concolor

Coelogyne xyrekes

2nd Derek Copley

Odontoglossum pulchellum

Odontoglossum pescatorei

Coelogyne cristata

3rd Geoff Hands

Coelogyne cristata

Eulophia guinensis

Bulbophyllum eberhardtii

Class 11 Three Hybrid Orchids (5 entries)

1st Christine Carter

Phalaenopsis First steps Carmel's Pixie

Doritaenopsis Queen Beer

Phalaenopsis Leucoalia Lava Flow

2nd Margaret Johnson

Vanda Finetia Blaypunkt

Oncidium Kaliti

Phragmipedium *sedenii*

3rd Geoff Hands

Ascda Chiang Mai Gold

Vanda coerulea alba x Rose Marie

BLC Golden Mul

Class 12 Three Mixed Species or hybrids (5 entries)

1st Colin Carter

Paphiopedilum delenatii alba

Paphiopedilum *Leeanum*

Cypripedium *segawai*

2nd Geoff Hands

Phalaenopsis Moravia x *Doritaenopsis* Lippenstadt

Cattleya auriantica

Kaganara Kultan Red

Coelogyne cristata
Stenorrhynchos speciosus
Dendrobium Emma Gold

Class 13 Novices Class (0 entry)

Class 14 Cut Flower Spike (4 entries)

1st Nina Gregson
Cymbidium Hybrid

2nd Derek Copley
Cymbidium Strathdon Cooksbridge

3rd John Hilliard
Paphiopedilum Hybrid

Class 15 Window-Sill Orchid (2entries)

1st Christine Carter
Phalaenopsis Rififi

2nd Alan Zealey
Phalaenopsis Follett

Class 16 Members Flower Arrangement (5 entries)

Eastern Delight

1st Nina Gregson
2nd Ann Slade

Reflections

1st Nina Gregson **THE BEAUFORT CUP Best in Class 16**
2nd Ann Slade
3rd Gwen Ivamy

Class 17 Open Flower Arrangement (6 entries)

Eastern Delight

1st Sarah Rickett **ROSE BOWL Best in class 17**
2nd Val Clark
3rd Valerie Staines

Reflections

1st Val Clark
2nd Julie Sprules
3rd Val Staines

The hard work of the Bournemouth Orchid Society has paid off once more, we had 420 paying visitors plus our own members on the day. Our expansion onto the stage area seemed to work well, allowing us a little more space and an excellent view point to take in the whole show. From the feed back of members and the viewing public this must go down as one of the best spring shows.

The high standard of the plants on the show bench, together with their superb presentation made this a top quality experience.

Congratulations to all who won rosettes and trophies they were well deserved.

Congratulations also go to our own Nick Crabb winning the best in show and best species in show with a superb plant of *Cymbidium hookerianum* with four spikes each supporting about twelve flowers per spike of fully open and very fragrant flowers.

The very difficult task of judging the show bench was carried out by our Life President Keith Andrew and our programme secretary Chong-Yee Khoo many thanks to you both.

Thanks to our Vice president Allan and members plants, once again the non competitive display was superb, what a marvellous collection of plants.

The potting and advice given by Allan & Derek is proving more popular each year, many thanks to you both.

Also many thanks to the ladies for their magnificent flower arrangements, we all enjoyed the wonderful displays, our judge Mrs Barbara Greaves had a very difficult task awarding the winners from such a high standard

My thanks to all who helped with the Friday evening set up, the team worked so hard making a difficult task easy

Also many thanks to all members who helped on the day manning tombola raffle information & entry tables

Finally, and not least, I would like to thank our members and the public for supporting the show.

Colin Carter
Show Secretary



Epidendrum capricornu
Class winner

Spring Show Dedication



Left Chairman Derek Copley and right Life President Keith Andrew

Our Chairman, Derek Copley, announced the Spring Show was to be dedicated to our Life President, Keith Andrew. He cited Keith's long and loyal association with Bournemouth Orchid Society and his work with orchids, which has gained him many accolades throughout the world. This news was greeted with loud applause from the huge crowd of members and visitors who all agreed was a most fitting honour.

Plant Clinic & Brains Trust

The Brains this month were, Keith Andrew, Dave Walters and Mike Powell.

First Plant

Phalaenopsis described as “sick”

Dave noted rotting and scorched leaves and the plant looked “drowned”.

Mike said the compost looked like it was rotting and was “claggy”, the roots were in poor condition. Needed re-potting with good quality bark into the same pot.

Keith said to remember Phals are epiphytic and require well drained compost . The plant was potted into soggy peat but should be bark. Damaged leaves should be trimmed off and wiped over with methylated spirit, but Keith urged not to drink it. The leaves should be rounder and indicated low light levels, so give more light and locate plant in an east facing window for morning sun. Feed with weak fertiliser.

Plant 2 Phalaenopsis hybrid

Q. Should the old flower spike be cut off?

A. Mike noted the plant was in good condition with “paddle” shaped leaves and noticed a new flower spike emerging so suggested the old spike should be cut off. Could be re-potted to centralise the plant if so desired.

Keith said it was a good plant with nice coloured leaves but all Phals tend to lean over after a while, due to their nature. This was a better plant compared to the previous one.

Dave made a general comment regarding garden centres which spray plants with water which can collect in the centre of the growth and cause rotting.

A member said he sprays his Phalaenopsis with a very weak feed every morning but removes any water collected in the centre . Mike uses a straw to blow any water away but you must remember to blow and not suck!

Keith said you should spray the underside of the leaves for best results.

Plant 3
Another Phally

Q. What to do with all the bits and pieces growing on the old flower spikes?

A. Keith said Keikis are produced if plants are grown too hot, they produce growth and not flowers. Put sphagnum moss around the roots of the Keikis to encourage new roots, then remove when fully rooted. Sometimes the main plant stops growing but side growths can develop to take over.

Dave noted the compost was also in poor condition, too much peat and needed repotting into a bark compost.

Mike advised not to use garden centre orchid compost but to purchase at an orchid nursery. Plants need air at the roots.

Q. Do you need to keep the moss around the Keikis wet?

A. Keith said to spray with water regularly. He also mentioned Phalaenopsis require a drop in temperature to induce flowering, 50 F (10 C) at night, 60 - 70 F (15 - 21 C) during the day and three months later they will flower.

Q. Why pot into a smaller pot?

A. Dave said because they drain quicker and this encourages rooting. Over potted plants will rot if watered too frequently.

Q. *Dendrobium cuthbertsonii*, should they be given bottom heat after de-flasking?

A. Chong - Yee Khoo was invited to answer this as he is a superb grower of this type of orchid.

Keep in humid conditions, taking care to keep it fresh. Treat seedlings with Physan after de-flasking to kill bacteria and fungal spores. Give good light and ventilation. This is a cool growing orchid.

Q. What is the advantage of clear pots?

A. Keith said it allows you to see the roots.

This question was, in my opinion, the most interesting of the evening and a discussion started as to the pros and cons of using clear pots. Unfortunately our chairman brought the discussion to a halt due to lack of time. BOOOO!

I suggest at the next Brains Trust this question is the first to be asked as this would allow a reasonable time to debate this subject.

Allan Burdis

Coach Outing

Burnham Nursery

Devon

Sunday 4 June

Remember to book your seat to avoid
disappointment.

Bookings taken by
Pam Miles

Pick up point BNSS car park only
(departure time to be announced later)

**BOC Congress 2006
September 30 -October 1**

Bournemouth Orchid Society will be staging an
exhibit at this important orchid event.

A coach trip will be organised for members, most likely for Sunday,
so make a note in your diary.

If you are interested in attending both days and take advantage of the
varied lecture programme, speak to the BOS Secretary, Ken Griffiths
for registration details.

Welcome to new members

Andrew & Ann Nicholson
Christchurch

Eric Groome
Dorchester

Ruth Pettitt
New Milton

Bill & Beryl Adams
Bournemouth
(rejoining)

Miss J Thorn
Bournemouth

Mr. H Caplin
Bournemouth

Rosemary St John
Poole

Ms R Williams
Ferndown

Life President Keith Andrew Esq.

Life Vice - Presidents Graham Smith & Allan Burdis

Officers

Chairman Dr. Derek Copley

Vice - Chairman Ken Griffiths

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